C. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In order to better assist the Examiner with the prosecution of the case, the current pending claims have been included in their entirety for which reconsideration is requested.

1. (Currently Amended) A method, in at least one server system for enabling at least one real time chat messaging session channel via a network between at least a selection of a plurality of separate client systems communicatively connected to said network, for recording a real time chat messaging session, said method comprising the steps of:

applying a separate distinguishable digital watermark to each of a plurality of message entries communicated within [a] said chat messaging session, wherein each said separate distinguishable digital watermark identifies a separate origin of said message entry from among said plurality of separate client systems; and

recording a log of said chat messaging session, wherein said log comprises said plurality of messaging entries with each said separate distinguishable watermark applied, such that an origin of each of said plurality of message entries stored in said log is traceable and the integrity of each of said plurality of message entries stored in said log is verifiable according to said distinguishable watermark.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) The method for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

applying each said separate distinguishable digital watermark and recording said log of said chat messaging session with said plurality of messaging entries at a particular client system from among said ~~separate one of a~~ plurality of client systems ~~communicatively connected via a network to said plurality of client systems accessible to a plurality of users~~.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The method for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 1, said step of applying a separate distinguishable digital watermark further comprising the step of:

applying a separate textual watermark to each of said plurality of message entries within said chat messaging session.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 1, said step of applying a separate distinguishable digital watermark further comprising the step of:

applying a separate graphical watermark to each of said plurality of message entries within said chat messaging session.

7. (Currently Amended) The method for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 1, said step of applying a separate distinguishable digital watermark further comprising the step of:

applying a[n] separate audible watermark to each of said plurality of message entries within said chat messaging session.

8. (Currently Amended) The method for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

transmitting said log of said chat messaging session ~~recording of said plurality of messaging entries with a plurality of watermarks applied to said plurality of users, wherein each of said plurality of watermarks corresponds to one from among~~ to a plurality of users participating in said chat messaging session.

9. (Currently Amended) The method for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

storing said [recording] log of said chat messaging session in a log file repository for tracing said origin of said plurality of message entries according to each said separate distinguishable watermark.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently Amended) The method for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

applying each said separate distinguishable digital watermark in response to a user request received from at least one from among said plurality of client systems to record said plurality of messaging entries with watermarking.

13. (Currently Amended) The method for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 1, said method further comprising the step of:

applying said distinguishable watermark to a plurality of message entries already recorded in a second log of [for] said chat messaging session.

14. (Currently Amended) A system for recording a chat messaging session, said system comprising:

a messaging server communicatively connected to a network, said messaging server for enabling at least one real time chat messaging session channel via said network between at least a selection of a plurality of separate client systems communicatively connected to said network to facilitate said chat messaging session;

said messaging server further comprising:

means for applying a separate distinguishable digital watermark to each of a plurality of message entries communicated within [a] said chat messaging session, wherein each said separate distinguishable digital watermark identifies a separate origin of said message entry from among said plurality of separate client systems; and

means for recording a log of said chat messaging session, wherein said log comprises said plurality of messaging entries with each said separate distinguishable watermark applied, such that an origin of each of said plurality of message entries stored in said log is traceable and the integrity of each of said plurality of message entries stored in said log is verifiable according to said distinguishable watermark.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) The system for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 14, said means for applying a separate distinguishable digital watermark further comprising:

means for applying a separate textual watermark to each of said plurality of message entries within said chat messaging session.

17. (Currently Amended) The system for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 14, said means for applying a separate distinguishable digital watermark further comprising:

means for applying a separate graphical watermark to each of said plurality of message entries within said chat messaging session.

18. (Currently Amended) The system for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 14, said means for applying a separate distinguishable digital watermark further comprising:

means for applying a[n] separate audible watermark to each of said plurality of message entries within said chat messaging session.

19. (Currently Amended) The system for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 14, said messaging server ~~system~~ further comprising:

means for transmitting said log of said chat messaging session ~~recording of said plurality of messaging entries with a plurality of watermarks applied to said plurality of users, wherein each of said plurality of watermarks corresponds to one from among~~ to a plurality of users participating in said chat messaging session.

20. (Currently Amended) The system for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 14, said messaging server ~~system~~ further comprising:

means for storing said [recording] log of said chat messaging session in a log file repository for tracing said origin of said plurality of message entries according to each said separate distinguishable watermark.

21. (Canceled).

22. (Canceled).

23. (Currently Amended) The system for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 14, said messaging server ~~system~~ further comprising:

means for applying each said separate distinguishable digital watermark in response to a user request received from at least one from among said plurality of client systems to record said plurality of messaging entries with watermarking.

24. (Currently Amended) The system for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 14, said messaging server ~~system~~ further comprising:

means for applying said distinguishable watermark to a plurality of message entries already recorded in a second log of [for] said chat messaging session.

25. (Currently Amended) A program for recording a chat messaging session, residing on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, said program comprising:

means for enabling at least one real time chat messaging session channel via a network between at least a selection of a plurality of separate client systems communicatively connected to said network to facilitate said chat messaging session;

means for controlling application of a separate distinguishable digital watermark to each of a plurality of message entries communicated within [a] said chat messaging session, wherein each said separate distinguishable digital watermark identifies a separate origin of said message entry from among said plurality of separate client systems; and

means for controlling recording of a log of said chat messaging session, wherein said log comprises said plurality of messaging entries with each said separate distinguishable watermark applied, such that an origin of each of said plurality of message entries stored in said log is traceable and the integrity of each of said plurality of message entries stored in said log is verifiable according to said distinguishable watermark.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Currently Amended) The program for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 25, said means for controlling application of a separate distinguishable digital watermark further comprising:

means for controlling application of a separate textual watermark to each of said plurality of message entries within said chat messaging session.

28. (Currently Amended) The program for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 25, said means for controlling application of a separate distinguishable digital watermark further comprising:

means for controlling application of a separate graphical watermark to each of said plurality of message entries within said chat messaging session.

29. (Currently Amended) The program for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 25, said means for controlling application of a separate distinguishable digital watermark further comprising:

means for controlling application of a[n] separate audible watermark to each of said plurality of message entries within said chat messaging session.

30. (Currently Amended) The program for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 25, said program further comprising:

means for enabling transmission of said log of said chat messaging session ~~recording of said plurality of messaging entries with a plurality of watermarks applied to said plurality of users, wherein each of said plurality of watermarks corresponds to one from among~~ to a plurality of users participating in said chat messaging session.

31. (Currently Amended) The program for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 25, said program further comprising:

means for directing storage of said [recording] log of said chat messaging session in a log file repository for tracing said origin of said plurality of message entries according to each said separate distinguishable watermark.

32. (Canceled).

33. (Canceled).

34. (Currently Amended) The program for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 25, said program further comprising:

means for controlling application of each said separate distinguishable digital watermark in response to a user request received from at least one from among said plurality of client systems to record said plurality of messaging entries with watermarking.

35. (Currently Amended) The program for recording a chat messaging session according to claim 25, said program further comprising:

means for controlling application of said distinguishable watermark to a plurality of message entries already recorded in a second log of [for] said chat messaging session.

36. (Currently Amended) A method, in a particular client system from among a plurality of clients systems enabled to communicate with one another through a chat messaging session channel facilitated by a chat messaging server via a network, for participating in a chat messaging session facilitated through said chat messaging session channel, said method comprising the steps of:

participating in a chat messaging session by receiving from said chat messaging server a plurality of messaging entries as each messaging entry is entered by [from] separate ones of a plurality of separate users participating in said chat messaging session through separate ones of said plurality of client systems; and

receiving, separate from participating in said chat messaging session, a recording of said chat messaging session from said chat messaging server, wherein said plurality of message entries for said chat messaging session are [watermarked] each embedded by a separate digital watermark, wherein each said separate digital watermark identifies a separate origin of each of said plurality of message entries from among separate ones of said plurality of client systems, such that use of said recording of said chat messaging session is traceable according to a watermark.

37. (Currently Amended) The method for participating in a chat messaging session according to claim 36, said method further comprising the step of:

requesting, from said chat messaging server, said recording of said chat messaging session with each of said plurality of entries embedded by said separate digital watermark ~~watermarking of said plurality of message entries~~.

38. (Currently Amended) The method for participating in a chat messaging session according to claim 36, said method further comprising the step of:

participating in said chat messaging session by entering a messaging entry for distribution by said chat messaging server to said plurality of client systems through said chat messaging session channel.

~~watermarking said recording of said messaging session.~~

39. (Currently Amended) The method for participating in a chat messaging session according to claim 36, said method further comprising the step of:

participating in said chat messaging session by entering ~~transmitting~~ watermarked message entries for distribution ~~access~~ by said chat messaging server to said plurality of client systems ~~users~~ participating in said chat messaging session.

40. (Canceled).

41. (Currently Amended) A system for participating in a chat messaging session, said system comprising:

a particular client messaging system from among a plurality of client systems communicatively connected to a network, wherein said plurality of client systems are enabled to communicate with one another through a chat messaging session channel facilitated by a chat messaging server via a network;

means for participating in a chat messaging facilitated through said chat messaging session channel by receiving from said chat messaging server a plurality of messaging entries as each messaging entry is entered by [from] separate ones of a plurality of separate users participating in said chat messaging session through separate ones of said plurality of client systems; and

means for receiving, separate from participating in said chat messaging session, a recording of said chat messaging session from said chat messaging server, wherein said plurality of message entries for said chat messaging session are [watermarked] each embedded by a separate digital watermark, wherein each said separate digital watermark identifies a separate origin of each of said plurality of message entries from among separate ones of said plurality of client systems, such that use of said recording of said chat messaging session is traceable according to a watermark.

42. (Currently Amended) The system for participating in a chat messaging session according to claim 41, said system further comprising:

means for requesting, from said chat messaging server, said recording of said chat messaging session with each of said plurality of entries embedded by said separate digital watermark ~~watermarking of said plurality of message entries~~.

43. (Currently Amended) The system for participating in a chat messaging session according to claim 41, said system further comprising:

means for participating in said chat messaging session by entering a messaging entry for distribution by said chat messaging server to said plurality of client systems through said chat messaging session channel. ~~watermarking said recording of said messaging session.~~

44. (Currently Amended) The system for participating in a chat messaging session according to claim 41, said system further comprising:

means for participating in said chat messaging session by entering ~~transmitting~~ watermarked message entries for distribution ~~access~~ by said chat messaging server to said plurality of client systems ~~users~~ participating in said chat messaging session.

45. (Canceled).

46. (Currently Amended) A program for participating in a chat messaging session, residing on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, said program comprising:

means for enabling a client system to communicate via at least one real time chat messaging session channel via a network between at least a selection of a plurality of separate client systems communicatively connected to said network, wherein a chat messaging server facilitates said chat messaging session channel;

means for enabling participation in a chat messaging session by receiving from said chat messaging server a plurality of messaging entries as each messaging entry is entered by [from] separate ones of a plurality of separate users participating in said chat messaging session through separate ones of said plurality of client systems; and

means for enabling reception, separate from participating in said chat messaging session, of a recording of said chat messaging session from said chat messaging server, wherein said plurality of message entries for said messaging session are [watermarked] each embedded by a separate digital watermark, wherein each said separate digital watermark identifies a separate origin of each of said plurality of message entries from among separate ones of said plurality of client systems, such that use of said recording of said chat messaging session is traceable according to a watermark.

47. (Currently Amended) The program for participating in a chat messaging session according to claim 46, said program further comprising:

means for enabling transmission of a request to said chat messaging server for said recording of said chat messaging session with each of said plurality of entries embedded by said separate digital watermark ~~watermarking of said plurality of message entries~~.

48. (Currently Amended) The program for participating in a chat messaging session according to claim 46, said program further comprising:

means for participating in said chat messaging session by entering a messaging entry for distribution by said chat messaging server to said plurality of client systems through said chat messaging session channel. ~~controlling watermarking of said recording of said messaging session.~~

49. (Currently Amended) The program for participating in a chat messaging session according to claim 46, said program further comprising:

means for enabling participation in said chat messaging session by entering ~~transmitting~~ watermarked message entries for distribution ~~access~~ by said chat messaging server to said plurality of client systems ~~users~~ participating in said chat messaging session.

50. (Canceled).

51. (Canceled).

52. (Canceled).

53. (Canceled).

54. (Currently Amended) A method, in a particular client system from among a plurality of clients systems enabled to communicate with one another through a chat messaging session channel facilitated by a chat messaging server via a network, for protecting message transmissions, said method comprising the step of:

detecting a new message entry entered at a client messaging system, wherein said new message entry is intended for transmission through said chat messaging session channel to said plurality of client system participating in a chat messaging session; and

applying a digital watermark to said new message entry prior to transmission for distribution within [a] said chat messaging session, wherein said digital watermark identifies an origin of said new message entry from said particular client system, such that an origin of said new message entry is traceable to said client messaging system.

55. (Currently Amended) A system for protecting message transmissions, said system comprising:

a particular client messaging system from among a plurality of client systems communicatively connected to a network, wherein said plurality of client systems are enabled to communicate with one another through a chat messaging session channel facilitated by a chat messaging server via a network;

means for detecting a new message entry entered at said particular client messaging system, wherein said new message entry is intended for transmission through said chat messaging session channel to said plurality of client system participating in a chat messaging session; and

means for applying a digital watermark to said new message entry prior to transmission from said particular client messaging system for distribution within [a] said chat messaging session, wherein said digital watermark identifies an origin of said new message entry from said particular client system, such that an origin of said new message entry is traceable to said client messaging system.

56. (Currently Amended) A program for protecting message transmissions, residing on a computer usable medium having computer readable program code means, said program comprising:

means for enabling a client system to communicate via at least one real time chat messaging session channel via a network between at least a selection of a plurality of separate client systems communicatively connected to said network, wherein a chat messaging server facilitates said chat messaging session channel;

means for enabling detection of new message entry entered at a client system, wherein said new message entry is intended for transmission through said chat messaging session channel to said plurality of client system participating in a chat messaging session; and

means for controlling application of a digital watermark to said new message entry prior to transmission from said client system for distribution within [a] said chat messaging session, wherein said digital watermark identifies an origin of said new message entry from said particular client system, such that an origin of said new message entry is traceable to said client messaging system.